

REMARKS

Claims 39, 41 and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by EP 0 884 626 to Takeda et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Takeda et al. reference fails to disclose the claimed method for fabricating a liquid crystal display device that includes the step of “exposing and developing said resist film and forming a resist pattern having a shape on said pixel electrode pattern in which multiple branches extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem,” as defined in independent Claim 39 (emphasis added). One example of an embodiment of the claimed resist pattern with “multiple branches [that] extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem” is represented by resist pattern 34X of Figure 36T. Other examples of the claimed resist pattern, such as pattern 34Y of Figure 37, are shown and described in the present specification. Such branches help orient the liquid crystal molecules of perpendicular orientation in the proper direction.

In contrast to the claimed resist pattern of Claim 39, the resist pattern of the Takeda et al. reference does not have “multiple branches [that] extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem.” More specifically, pattern 20 of Figures 18A and 18B of the Takeda et al. reference is merely a plurality of parallel lines. Accordingly, such a pattern cannot be considered as having “multiple branches [that] extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem.” Further, pattern 20A of Figure 34 of the Takeda et al. reference merely includes portions extending from one side of a main stem, and not the claimed multiple branches that extend outwardly from “both sides” of a main stem, as defined in independent Claim 39.

Additionally, none of the other portions of the Takeda et al. reference disclose the claimed step of forming a resist pattern in which “multiple branches extend outwardly from both sides of a main stem,” as defined in independent Claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claim 39 and associated dependent Claims 41 and 42.

Claims 40-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,959,763 to Bozler et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 40-42 all depend from independent Claim 39, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 39, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103 rejection of dependent Claims 40-42 under Takeda et al. in view of Bozler et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to independent Claim 39, and also because Bozler et al. does not remedy the deficiencies mentioned above.

Claims 40 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,452,653 to Yamanaka et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 40 and 43 both depend from independent Claim 39, and therefore include all of the features of Claim 39, plus additional features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the § 103 rejection of dependent Claims 40 and 43 under Takeda et al. in view of Yamanaka et al. be withdrawn considering the above remarks directed to

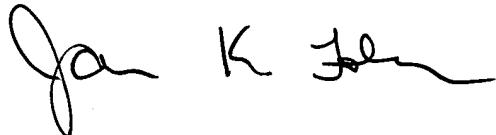
independent Claim 39, and also because Yamanaka et al. does not remedy the deficiencies mentioned above.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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